## CAREER TECHNICAL TRAINING AREA

# **Dental Assistant**







## Do You Like...

- ... caring for others?
- ... organization and detail?
- ... a regular routine?
- ... building relationships?

If so, you may be a good candidate for Job Corps' **Dental Assistant** career training program.

## SKILLS

Learn how to perform the essential tasks of a dental assistant, including:

- » Setting up equipment and preparing patients for treatment.
- » Sterilizing or disinfecting instruments, setting up instrument trays, preparing materials, and assisting the dentist during dental procedures.
- » Exposing dental diagnostic X-rays.
- » Collecting and recording treatment information and clinical data in patient records.
- Educating patients on how to maintain their dental health.

## **EXPECTATIONS & REQUIREMENTS**

While on the job, you will be expected to display the following traits at all times:

- » Attention to detail
- » Integrity
- » Concern for others
- » Dependability
- » Cooperation

And you will need to meet a few basic requirements in order to be hired as a dental assistant, including having:

- Strong listening, communication, and organizational skills
- » Basic math and reading skills
- » A high school diploma or the equivalent
- » Completion of the core curriculum and passing scores on all written and performance tests
- » CPR certification
- » At least 3,500 hours of experience as a dental assistant to achieve general chairside (GC) certification

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## CREDENTIALS

As a Job Corps student, you can earn credentials in your training area that demonstrate you have gained the knowledge and skills to help you succeed in your career. Credentials may lead to greater employment opportunities, higher wages, and promotions.

Students who complete a Health Care training program can earn nationally recognized credentials from the National Healthcareer Association (NHA) and a state-issued credential/ license.

### CAREER OPTIONS

Most Dental Assistant graduates work directly with dentists in their dental offices. Dental assistants typically work full time, and help with patient care and management of the dental office. Some graduates may go on to work in dental laboratories as well.

## **SALARY**

The average starting salary for most dental assistants is \$36,000/year.

\*For additional salary information and career path options in this field, visit www.mynextmove.org.





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